

# GOOD NEIGHBORLY NEWS

ISSUE 3

A NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PUBLICATION

SUMMER - 2008

## Neighborhood Watch Block Captains:

Please distribute this newsletter to your block participants and don't forget to signup for "Neighborhood Watch E-Mail Alerts." To register, e-mail us at [jsasw@ci.carlsbad.ca.us](mailto:jsasw@ci.carlsbad.ca.us) and get the details.

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## Police Contacts:

**Website**  
[www.carlsbadca.gov](http://www.carlsbadca.gov)

## Emergency

9 1 1

**Non-emergency**  
 (760) 931-2197

**Crime Statistic Hotline**  
 (760) 931-2201  
**Other Crime Statistics**  
 (760) 931-2279

**Police Watch Commander**  
 (760) 931-2115

**Traffic Unit**  
 (760) 931-2106

**Narcotics Unit**  
 (760) 931-2195

**Records Division**  
 (760) 931-2119

**Detective Division**  
 (760) 931-2145

**Community Services**  
 (760) 931-2177

**The Crime Prevention Unit's Mission** is the anticipation, recognition and appraisal of crime risk and the initiation of some action to remove or reduce it.

*Let's do it together!*

## Home Foreclosures

San Diego County, like the rest of the country, has seen a recent spike in the number of foreclosed homes. You might have noticed houses that look deserted around your neighborhood



unrepaired broken window leads to more.

Foreclosed homes can be problematic for neighbors in the area. Unlike other empty homes, which are usually under the watchful eye of the owners or a real estate agent, foreclosed homes are often left unattended for months — from before a bank takes ownership of the house until after it's sold. Because the widespread foreclosure problem arose from mortgage defaults, it affects all types of neighborhoods — from the lowest to the highest income areas.

There is some evidence that as foreclosures mount in a community, the community's crime rate may rise. Even if crime doesn't increase, foreclosures usually present a quality-of-life issue for neighbors. Consider the following:

## Break-Ins, Squatters and Partiers

Criminals may view a vacant home as a ripe opportunity to steal copper pipe, fixtures or appliances. Homeless persons or runaways may seek shelter in the buildings, and in colder weather may even start fires inside. Squatters may attempt to rig wiring to get power to the house; doing so is dangerous and can spark an electrical fire. The homes may be appealing to others as a secret place to party. And in some

cases, meth labs may spring up in vacant houses.

Over time, vandalism (broken windows, graffiti, etc.) may occur. We all know that one

## Other Quality-of-Life Issues:

Most foreclosed homes in San Diego County are not plagued by crime. But many undergo a transformation after being vacated. When a foreclosed property is not maintained, it can become an eyesore, affecting nearby property values. Grass and weeds grow amok. Newspapers, notices and mail pile up. Mosquitoes multiply near standing water (swimming pools or fountains).

## Report Suspicious Activity

The foreclosure and resale processes are often long, and can be frustrating for neighbors. There are a few things you can do in the meantime to help maintain safety and quality of life in your community. Remember even

though these house are vacant they are still part of your neighborhood. Keep an eye on these houses and take immediate action when you notice something suspicious (teenagers hanging out, noises late at night, light coming from inside, vandalism, etc.).



Call the Carlsbad Police Department at 931-2197, 24 hours a day. To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report code violations such as noxious weeds or excess trash, please contact Code Enforcement at 602-2703.

## Safe Travel Tips

### What to Take?

Safety begins when you pack. To help avoid becoming a target, do not dress so as to mark yourself as an affluent tourist. Expensive-looking jewelry, for instance, can draw the wrong attention.

Always try to travel light. You can move more quickly and will be more likely to have a free hand. You will also be less tired and less likely to set your luggage down, leaving it unattended.

Carry the minimum number of valuables, and plan places to conceal them. Your passport, cash and credit cards are most secure when locked in a hotel safe. When you have to carry them on your person, you may wish to put them in various places rather than all in one wallet or pouch.

Avoid handbags, fanny packs and outside pockets that are easy targets for thieves. Inside pockets and a sturdy shoulder bag with the strap worn across your chest are somewhat safer. One of the safest places to carry valuables is in a pouch or money belt worn under your clothing.

Bring travelers checks and one or two major credit cards instead of cash. Pack an extra set of passport photos along with a photocopy of



your passport's information page to make replacement of your passport easier in the event it is lost or stolen.

Put your name, address and telephone numbers inside and outside of each piece of luggage. Use covered luggage tags to avoid casual observation of your identity or nationality. If possible, lock your luggage.

Consider getting a telephone calling card. It is a convenient way of keeping in touch. If you have one, verify that you can use it from your overseas location(s). Access numbers to U.S. operators are published in many international newspapers. Find out your access number before you go.

### What to Leave Behind?



Don't bring anything you would hate to lose. Leave at home valuable or expensive-looking jewelry, irreplaceable family objects, all unnecessary credit cards, your Social Security card, library card, and similar items you may routinely carry in your wallet.

Leave a copy of your itinerary with family or friends at home in case they need to contact you in an emergency.

Make two photocopies of your passport identification page, airline tickets, driver's license and the credit cards that you plan to bring with you. Leave one photocopy of this data with family or friends at home; pack the other in a place separate from where you carry the originals.

Leave a copy of the serial numbers of your travelers' checks with a friend or relative at home. Carry your copy with you in a separate place and, as you cash the checks, cross them off the list.

## What to Learn about Before You Go?

The Department of State's Country Specific Information is available for every country of the world. They describe entry requirements, currency regulations, unusual health conditions, the crime and security situation, political disturbances, areas of instability, and special information about driving and road conditions. They also provide addresses and emergency telephone numbers for U.S. embassies and consulates. In general, Country Specific Information does not give advice. Instead, they describe conditions so travelers can make informed decisions about their trips.



For some countries, the Department of State issues a Travel Warning in addition to a Country Specific Information.

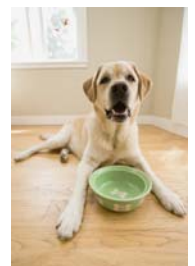
### Local Laws and Customs?

When you leave the United States, you are subject to the laws of the country you are visiting. Therefore, before you go, learn as much as you can about the local laws and customs of the places you plan to visit. Good resources are your library, your travel agent, and the embassies, consulates or tourist bureaus of the countries you will visit. In addition, keep track of what is being reported in the news.

For more safe travel tips, go to [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

### Disturbing the Peace!

Did you know it is a public offense for any person to own or harbor an animal in such a manner that the peace and quiet of the public is unreasonably disturbed (SDCC Section 62.672).



Dogs often bark out of boredom and modest changes in animal housing and care can often prevent or reduce noise disturbances? Go to [www.sddac.com](http://www.sddac.com) for suggestions.